

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Jean-Pierre Bertin, et al.

Filed: Herewith

For: MASTER/SLAVE APPARATUS FOR RECEIVING  
AUDIOVISUAL PROGRAMS4/A  
9/1/12PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents

10 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

15 Prior to examination and calculation of fees,  
please enter the following Preliminary Amendment and the  
accompanying remarks.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract with the following:

20 --An apparatus for receiving an audiovisual program  
comprising a circuit for communication with means of  
connection to a bidirectional communication network,  
wherein the apparatus comprises: a first connector for  
25 communication with a master apparatus; a second connector  
for communication with a peripheral apparatus; a means of  
transmission of a supply voltage on the first connector  
originating from the master apparatus; and means of  
30 detection of the presence of the supply voltage on the  
first connector, the means of detection controlling a  
switching circuit for going from a master mode of  
operation of the apparatus in relation to the peripheral  
apparatus in the case of the absence of the voltage, and  
35 from a slave mode of operation in relation to the master  
apparatus when the voltage is present.--